

RHODE ISLAND

The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) is the primary form for requesting registration and/or an absentee ballot from your local election official. **Read all instructions printed below and on the FPCA before completing and signing your application.**

FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION

REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST - FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION (FPCA)	
APPLICATION FOR STATE OF _____ COUNTY OF _____ CITY OR TOWNSHIP OF _____ §	
I REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR ALL ELECTIONS IN WHICH I AM ELIGIBLE TO VOTE.	
1. APPLICANT INFORMATION (See instruction 1.)	
a. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)	b. SEX c. RACE
d. DATE OF BIRTH	e. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
f. OTHER IDENTIFICATION NO. (passport, ID card)	
2. I LAST VOTED or PLACE OF LAST REGISTRATION (Do not leave this section blank. See instructions.)	
a. YEAR	b. COUNTY, CITY, OR TOWNSHIP
c. STATE	d. VOTER REGISTRATION NO. (if known)
3. VOTING RESIDENCE (For military, legal residence. For overseas civilians, last residence in U.S. IF USING RURAL ROUTE, SEE INSTRUCTIONS.)	
a. LAST DATE OF RESIDENCY	
b. NUMBER AND STREET (Do not use Post Office Box)	
c. CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE	d. STATE
e. COUNTY OR PARISH	f. ZIP CODE (9 -digit, if known)
4. MAIL ABSENTEE BALLOT TO: (Mailing address where you want the ballot to be sent.)	
5. YOUR FAX NUMBER (If this application is faxed, include all international prefixes. See instructions.)	
6. POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION (This information is required by most states to send you a ballot for primary elections. See Instructions.)	
7. REMARKS (Provide additional information which will assist local election officials in determining your eligibility to register and vote. See Instructions.)	
8. AFFIRMATION BY APPLICANT	
X only one: a, b, c or d I swear/affirm, under penalty of perjury, that I am: (See Instructions)	
a. a member of the Uniformed Services or merchant marine on active duty, or an eligible spouse or dependent.	
b. a U.S. citizen temporarily residing outside the U.S.	
c. a U.S. citizen overseas by virtue of employment or accompanying spouse or dependent.	
d. other U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S.	
e. I am a U.S. citizen, eligible to vote in the above jurisdiction, and subscribed to any required state/local oath or statement.	
f. I have not been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense or been adjudicated mentally incompetent, or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated.	
g. I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S.	
h. The information on this form is true and complete.	
i. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT	j. DATE
X	
9. WITNESS/NOTARY ADDRESS AND SIGNATURE (If required by state law)	
DATE SIGNED	

The information contained herein is for official use only. Any unauthorized release of this information may be punishable by law.

Application Instructions

Circled letters on the form above correspond to the instructions below. **You must complete all shaded areas.**

A. Do not leave blank. Enter “N/A” if not applicable or if you are a first time voter.

B. Provide the complete address of your Rhode Island voting residence. A post office box is not sufficient. If your address includes a rural route, describe its location. For example: “on Highway _____, 2 miles past Highway _____, across the street from the _____ gas station.” This address must be different from the one provided in Item 4 and must be within the city or town where you claim legal voting residence.

C. Print the complete address where you want your ballot sent — usually your current mailing address.

Your current mailing address must be different from the address you provided in Item 3.

D. You must list a party affiliation to vote in primaries, e.g., Democrat, Republican or write “none” in Item 6 of the FPCA. Changes of party affiliation must be made on or before the 90th day before the election. Political party affiliation is not required to vote in general elections.

E. Check ONE box.

F. The applicant must sign and date the FPCA for it to be processed by the local election official.

G. If you are an “other” (see Section II.A) overseas citizen requesting a state voter registration form only, a notary public, commissioned officer, consular officer, or other authorized person must complete this section.

I. UNIFORMED SERVICES

A. Who Can Do It

These procedures apply to persons who are U.S. citizens, residents of Rhode Island, members of the Uniformed Services and their family members, and members of religious groups or welfare agencies officially attached to the Armed Forces overseas and their spouses and dependents accompanying them outside the state. Uniformed Services are defined as the U.S. Armed Forces, merchant marine, commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

B. When To Do It

You may use a single FPCA to request ballots for all elections in a calendar year. This single FPCA can be extended beyond one year to the length of the assignment at a duty station (if over one year) by completing the absentee ballot certificate noted in (1) below.

Rhode Island waives registration.

(1) **To request an absentee ballot**, the Board of Canvassers in your city or town of voting residence must receive your FPCA not later than 4:00 p.m., 21 days before the election. In Item 7 of the FPCA write: "I request an absentee ballot certificate (Section 17-20-9.2)." When you receive the certificate, complete the form (including your name, Rhode Island address, duty station address where you want your ballot mailed, length of time assigned to that duty station) and obtain the name and signature of the military commander.

(2) Return your voted ballot to the State Board of Elections so that it arrives by 9:00 p.m. on election day.

State election officials begin mailing ballots approximately 21 days before the election. State elections officials will also issue an official state blank ballot 45 days before an election if the official ballot is not yet available and then will issue the official mail ballot when it becomes available.

If you are outside the U.S. and have not received your official state ballot or official blank state ballot in a timely manner, use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot. See instructions in Chapter 2, page 12 and I.F.

C. Oath/Witness Requirements

Rhode Island does not require notarization on the FPCA used to request an absentee ballot, the associated absentee ballot and the state write-in ballot.

D. Electronic Transmission of FPCAs and Ballots

- Rhode Island allows you to send the FPCA for absentee ballot request by fax. The FPCA must be sent to the State Board of Elections and must be received not later than 4:00 p.m., 21 days before the election. After faxing, the original FPCA must be mailed. Include your fax number on the FPCA.
- Rhode Island will transmit the blank ballot by fax to the voter via the FVAP facsimile number.
- Rhode Island allows you to return the voted ballot by fax.

Please refer to Appendix C for specific instructions when transmitting election materials electronically. **Use only the following numbers:**

DSN 223-5527
(703) 693-5527
1-800-368-8683

E. Special Write-In Absentee Ballot

Rhode Island provides an official state blank ballot 45 days before an election if the official ballot is not yet available.

Instructions continue in Section III: Uniformed Services & Civilians Outside U.S.

F. Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot

Rhode Island has expanded the use of the Federal Write-in Ballot (FWAB). The instructions described in Chapter 2 remain the same except that Rhode Island also allows the FWAB to be used to vote for offices in state and local elections.

II. CIVILIANS OUTSIDE U.S.

A. Who Can Do It

These procedures apply to persons who are U.S. citizens, residents of Rhode Island and overseas citizens. The term "overseas citizen" means a U.S. citizen who resides outside the U.S. and (but for such residence) would be qualified to vote in Rhode Island.

- overseas citizens temporarily residing outside the U.S. by reason of employment by any agency, department or division of the U.S. Government (for local, state and Federal office ballots)

- overseas citizens employed outside the U.S. (for local, state and Federal office ballots)
- “other” overseas citizens residing outside the U.S. under R.I. Code 17-21.1 (for Federal office ballots only)

B. When To Do It

Overseas citizens temporarily residing outside the U.S. by reason of employment may use a single FPCA to request ballots for all elections in a calendar year. All other Rhode Island citizens must submit a separate FPCA for each election.

Rhode Island waives registration except for “other” overseas citizens residing outside the U.S. “Other” overseas citizens must fill out an Affidavit of Absentee Voter Upon Registration form which must be returned to the Board of Canvassers not later than 30 days before the election.

(1) **To request an absentee ballot**, send the FPCA to the Board of Canvassers in your city or town of voting residence not later than 4:00 p.m., 21 days before the election.

(2) Return your voted ballot to the state board of elections so that it arrives by 9:00 p.m. on election day.

State election officials begin mailing ballots approximately 21 days before the election. For overseas citizens employed outside the U.S., state elections officials will also issue an official state blank ballot 45 days before an election if the official ballot is not yet available and will issue the official mail ballot when it becomes available.

If you have not received your state ballot in a timely manner, use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot. See instructions in Chapter 2, page 12 and II.F.

C. Oath/Witness Requirements

Rhode Island does not require notarization on the FPCA used to request an absentee ballot, the associated absentee ballot and the state blank ballot. “Other” overseas citizens, however, must have their Affidavit of Absentee Voter Upon Registration notarized by a person authorized to administer oaths to register to vote.

D. Electronic Transmission of FPCAs and Ballots

- Except for “other” overseas citizens, Rhode Island allows you to send the FPCA for absentee ballot request by fax. The FPCA must be sent to the State Board of Elections and must be received not later than 4:00 p.m. 21 days before the election. After faxing, the original FPCA must be mailed. Include your fax number on the FPCA.
- Except for “other” overseas citizens, Rhode Island will transmit the blank ballot by fax to the voter via the FVAP facsimile number.
- Except for “other” overseas citizens, Rhode Island allows you to return the voted ballot by fax.

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Instructions continue in Section III: Uniformed Services & Civilians Outside U.S.

III. UNIFORMED SERVICES & CIVILIANS OUTSIDE U.S.

A. Bars to Registration and Voting

No person convicted of a felony can vote until completion of the sentence, including parole or probation, regardless of a no contest plea. Upon such completion,

the person's right to vote shall be restored. No person declared mentally incapable can vote.

B. Cancellation of Registration

Registration is canceled for failure to respond to confirmation mailings along with the failure to vote in the next two general (Federal office) elections.

C. Action If Registration Is Denied

Denial of registration may be appealed to the State Board of Elections. Consult a legal assistance officer or civilian counsel.

D. Late Registration

Any member of the Armed Forces or of the merchant marine of the U.S. in active service, and any person absent from the state in the performance of "services intimately connected with military operations"; any person who is employed by any agency, department or division of the U.S. Government and who by reason of such employment resides outside of the continental U.S.; and any person employed outside the territorial limits of the U.S. shall be exempt during the period of his/her service or employment for 2 years after their return to the U.S.

E. Voting By Citizens Who Have Never Lived in the U.S.

If the person is a U.S. citizen and has never lived in the U.S. but has a parent who is a qualified Rhode Island elector, then this person will be eligible to register and vote in Federal elections.

F. Where To Send It

Mail the FPCA to the Board of Canvassers, city or town of voting residence listed below:

City or Town	Zip Code
Barrington	02806-2400
Bristol	02809-2208
Burrillville	02830-1499
Central Falls	02863-2835
Charlestown	02813-3426
Coventry	02816-8911
Cranston	02910-2738
Cumberland	02864-8300
East Greenwich	02818-0111
East Providence	02914-4505
Exeter	02822-2425
Foster	02825-1227
Glocester	02814-0702
Hopkinton	02833-1142
Jamestown	02835-1199
Johnston	02919-7190
Lincoln	02865-1325
Little Compton	02837-0523
Middletown	02842-5274
Narragansett	02882-0777
Newport	02840-2798
New Shoreham	02807-9999
North Kingstown	02852-5762
North Providence	02911-1078
North Smithfield	02876-0248
Pawtucket	02860-2191
Portsmouth	02871-0155
Providence	02903-1789
Richmond	02898-0051
Scituate	02857-0328
Smithfield	02917-3223
South Kingstown	02879-3157
Tiverton	02878-4499
Warren	02885-4369
Warwick	02886-7191
Westerly	02891-1826
West Greenwich	02817-2113
West Warwick	02893-4829
Woonsocket	02895-4379

“Vote Is: A Voice Opened To Everyone”

by Druscilla Jones, Washington, DC